

LESSON
13

PRACTICE WORKSHEET B
Summarizing

COPYMASTER

Directions: Read the boxed biography of Louis Braille. Answer the items that follow.

Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809, in Coupvray, near Paris, France. At three years old, Louis lost his sight in an accident with one of his father's leather-making tools. The small village did not have any way to teach blind students, and Louis very much wanted an education. Therefore, when Louis was ten, his parents enrolled him in the Paris Blind School.

Louis learned to read from special books made for the blind. The books had big letters punched into the pages. This made the books big, heavy, and hard to carry. Since the books cost so much, the school could only afford a few—just 14 books in all! The books were difficult to read, too, because it took so long to trace the letters. By the time he got to the end of a sentence, Louis had forgotten the beginning! "There has to be a better way for a blind person to read," he thought. Louis decided to come up with a way that blind people could read as easily as sighted people.

He started with the alphabet code the French army used, a series of small dots and dashes raised off the paper, so soldiers could read them in the dark. Louis taught himself the code. It was better than the big letters, but still took too long to figure out. Louis made the code simpler, six dots, arranged in different ways to make all the letters. Louis published his code, called Braille, in 1829, opening a world of reading to people with visual impairments.

1. Answer the following questions with information from the passage.

Who? _____

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

How? _____

2. What is the main idea of this article? _____

3. On a separate sheet of paper, write a summary of this biography.